I

BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T.

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1968.

and

Incorporating the Report of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

A. BARLOW, M.B.,Ch.B.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

M.O.H. Brierfield U.D.C. 1968

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Mr. Perry AHIS 3.

8 JUL 1969

9 JUL 1969

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Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
BRIERFIELD,
Lancashire.

May, 1969.

To:- The Chairman and Members of the
Brierfield Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration, the following report on the Health, Sanitary Conditions and Public Health Administration in the Urban District of Brierfield for the year ended 31st December, 1968.

It includes various matters which have affected Public Health during the year. All records and statistics are being preserved so that the annual records may, so far as practicable be continuous and complete.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
A. BARLOW,
Medical Officer of Health.

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1968 according to the Rate Book was 2,821, the rateable value being £183,573 and the sum represented by a penny rate of £707. 0. 0d.

Social conditions were generally quite good. There was no serious unemployment. The main industry is cotton. The manufacture of bottle tops is also carried on.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION. The population as estimated by the Registrar General for mid 1968 is 7,270.

BIRTHS. 121 Live Births belonging to the District occurred during 1968, 66 males, 55 femals. Of these 16, 6 male and 10 female were illegitimate. Crude rate per 1,000 home population, 16.6.

Three still births were recorded. Rate per 1,000 total births, 24.

Comparative particulars with regard to live births over the last five years are given in the following table:-

	1968.	1967.	1966.	1965.	1964.
Total Live Births	121	125	95	97	111
Crude Birth Rate per 1000 estim.population.	16.6	17.2	13.0	13.3	15.1
Adjusted Rate	18.4	19.1	14.5	14.8	16.8

The rate for the district is 11% above the national average.

No deaths occurred of infants under 1 year.

Previous Infant Mortality rates:-

1967.	1966.	1965.	1964.	1963.
8.0	NIL	30.9	18.2	17.7

The Perinatal mortality rate was 24 per 1,000 total births.

DEATHS. 88 Deaths belonging to the District occurred during 1968 as follows:-

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths within the Urban District.	21	23	44
Deaths outside the Urban District in Hospitals, Institutions etc.	25	19	44
	46	42	88

The death rate of 12.1 per 1,000 is 25% above the national average.

Death Rate (Cause Groups B.19 (1-6 inc.) Malignant Neoplasms etc.	1.65
Respiratory T.B.	NIL.

Comparative particulars with regard to deaths over the last five years are given in the following table:-

	1968.	1967.	1966.	1965.	1964.
Total Deaths	88	109	90	107	112
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estim. population	12.1	13.6	12.4	14.7	15.4
Adjusted Rate	12.2	13.9	12.5	14.7	15.7

The following table gives the ages at which deaths occurred, also the causes of all deaths belonging to Brierfield during 1968.

Causes of Death at different periods of Life during 1968.

Columns for the ages 1-5 yrs; 5-15 yrs.etc. have been omitted as no death occurred in these age groups

Cause of Death.	Sex.	Total all Ages.	Age in years.				
			35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & Over.
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach.	M	2	-	-	-	-	2
	F	1	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus.	M	1	-	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus.	F	1	-	1	-	-	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	M	3	-	-	1	2	-
	F	4	1	1	-	1	1
Diabetes Mellitus	M	1	-	-	-	1	-
	F	2	-	-	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System etc.	M	1	-	-	-	-	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	3
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease.	M	1	-	1	-	-	-
Hypertensive Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease.	M	16	2	2	5	7	-
	F	7	-	-	-	3	4
Other forms of Heart Disease	F	2	-	-	1	1	-
Cerebrovascular Disease.	M	10	-	-	1	-	9
	F	7	-	-	1	3	3
Other Diseases of Circulatory System.	M	3	-	-	2	-	1
	F	7	-	-	-	-	7
Influenza	F	2	-	-	-	1	1
Pneumonia	M	1	-	-	1	-	-
Bronchitis and Emphysema.	M	4	-	-	1	3	-
	F	3	-	1	-	1	1
Asthma	F	1	-	-	-	-	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System.	M	1	-	-	-	1	-
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries.	M	1	-	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	1	-
Total All Causes	M	46	2	3	13	14	14
	F	42	1	3	2	13	23

T U B E R C U L O S I S.

There has been little change during the year, one additional non-pulmonary case, one new pulmonary and one pulmonary (over 65) recovered.

CASES ON THE REGISTER AT THE 31st DECEMBER, 1968.

One the Register at the end of December, 1968, there were 12 cases of Tuberculosis (10 Pulmonary and 2 Non-Pulmonary) as follows:-

	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	Over 65	TOTAL.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	1	2	2	-	3	-	2	10
Non-Pulmonary Renal Tract.	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
	1	2	3	-	3	1	2	12

All these cases are dealt with by the County Tuberculosis Officer and no direct information is available about the number of cases receiving allowances.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The nearest Clinic is at Burnley and any cases discovered are advised to attend this Clinic.

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

There are no special workers in this area, but the Burnley and District House of Help does good work in this direction.

LABORATORY WORK.

This work is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Meadow Street, Preston, as and when necessary.

The Lancashire County Council provides and maintains the following:-

AMBULANCE SERVICE. The Urban District is served by ambulance and sitting cars.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICE. The Infant Welfare Clinic for the Urban District is held weekly.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE. There is one District Midwife assigned to Brierfield who resides within the District.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

	Per 1,000 Estimated Population.	
	Crude Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate.
Mean of 5 years 1963-1967	14.8	13.5
Year 1967	17.2	13.6
Year 1968	16.6	12.1
Increase or decrease in 1968 on 5 years average 1963-1967.	+ 1.8	+ 1.4
Change on Previous Year.	- 0.6	- 1.5

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.
(OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

All cases kept at home. No deaths.

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES	Age Groups				
		-1	1/3	3/5	5/10	10/15
Measles	82	4	27	25	23	3
Scarlet Fever	5	-	1	2	2	-
	87	4	28	27	25	3

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC, HEALTH, CLEANSING AND SEWAGE COMMITTEE.

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. Arnold.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Miss Sumner.

Councillors: Brown, Clegg, Edmondson, Marsh, Greenwood, Nolan, Petty, Mrs. Rawlinson, Sutcliffe and Woodcock.

Medical Officer of Health. Dr. Arthur Barlow, M.B.,Ch.B.

Public Health Inspector.	John S. Haworth. Certificate of R.S.H. and S.I.E.J.B. R.S.H. Certificate for Inspection of Meat and Other Foods, Smoke Inspector, Sanitary Science etc.
Duties.	All matters coming within the purview of a Public Health Inspector including supervision of refuse collection. Appointed as Officer under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. Appointed as an Officer under the Shops Act by the County Council.
WATER SUPPLY.	Brierfield is supplied with a constant supply of water from the mains of the North Calder Water Board and there were no new sources of supply during the year. All dwellinghouses within the District, except one, are supplied direct from public mains. The one exception, which is supplied by spring water, is an isolated farm dwelling and is a considerable distance from the nearest public main.
SUPPLIES TO HOUSES.	The number of houses supplied direct from public mains is 2,863.
WATER SAMPLING.	
Public Mains.	Number of Bacteriological examinations One sample was reported on adversely but follow up samples proved satisfactory. The water was sampled frequently by the Board's Officers and found to be satisfactory.
SWIMMING BATHS.	There are no Swimming Baths or Pools within the District.
SEWAGE DISPOSAL.	The sewage is carried by gravity feed to the Disposal Works at the lowest part of the District. Treatment is by means of screens, detritus tanks, sedimentation tanks, rotary filters and humus tanks. The effluent from the works is discharged into Pendle Water.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Number of Privy Middens. NIL.

Number of Pail Closets. There are five only, two of them at isolated dwellings, the other three on the golf course. These are emptied weekly by Council employees.

Number of Fresh Water Closets. 2,438.

Number of Waste Water Closets. 544.

Conversions during the Year.

Number of Pail Closets to fresh water closets.	NIL.
Number of waste water closets to fresh water closets.	16.
Number of houses on water carriage system.	2,862.

Chief Sanitary requirement of the District.

Continued action on the conversion of waste water closets. Improvement of the many old dwellinghouses which require hot water, baths and other amenities.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This is carried out by direct labour, in the first half of the year with a Shelvoke and Drewry 16/18 cu.yd. Fore and Aft Tipper equipped with a power press and later with a 50 cu.yd. Eagle Crushload vehicle. Domestic refuse is collected weekly and refuse from shops, factories etc., twice weekly and disposed of at the Burnley tip by arrangement with the County Borough Council.

Number of Moveable Ashbins - 3,137.

SALVAGE.

Collection of salvage was discontinued during the year.

INSPECTIONS MADE.	1967.	1968.
Number of complaints received and investigated (not including complaints re refuse collection service).	293	308
Number of complaints received and dealt with re refuse collection service and blocked street gullies.	241	151
Number of requests for additional collections	424	578
Visits to Smoke Control Area	575	1036
Industrial Plant	19	12
Sanitary accommodation etc., in factories and workshops.	77	30
Bakehouses	8	6
Unfit Food	3	16
Food preparation premises (not bakehouses)	64	137
Complaints/re-visits	484	600
Infectious Diseases Enquiries/Food Poisoning	10	10
Public Sanitary Accommodation	22	22
Council Houses	22	16
Animals	4	1
Housing Act, Re-Inspections	223	181

INSPECTIONS MADE (Cont.)	1967.	1968.
Overcrowding	4	-
Interviews Owners etc.	53	79
Rats/Mice	109	65
Other infestations	4	6
Noise Nuisances	24	12
O.S.R.P. Act	66	65
Shops Act	126	295
Schools	4	4
Refuse Accumulations, Tips, Dustbins.	442	571
Drains Tested	50	24
Water Samples taken	1	4
Milk Samples Taken	1	1
Ice Cream Samples Taken	1	4
Informal Notices Served	84	120
Informal Notices Remedied	89	170
Formal Notices Served	35	6
Formal Notices Remedied	21	6

DISINFESTATION. Complaints were received of infestation by cockroaches from 26 dwellinghouses. These were treated by a servicing firm. Complaints of catterpillars and wasps were also dealt with. Ten cases of Scabies were treated by arrangement with the Burnley Health Dept.

CAMPING SITES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS. There are no caravans or sites licensed under the Public Health Act, 1936 and no licenses have been applied for under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951. The one establishment registered under this Act was maintained in a clean and satisfactory condition.

HOUSING.

CONDITION. Most of the houses are stone built in terraces and about 80% of them are owner occupied. The majority are well maintained but there are some falling slowly into a state of disrepair. Amenities in these older houses are lacking. The more recently built brick houses include detached bungalows and semi-detached houses.

BACK TO BACK HOUSES. There are 16 such houses, mainly owner/occupied well maintained and in very good condition.

NEW BUILDINGS. During the year twenty five houses were completed by private enterprise.

OVER-CROWDING. No new cases were reported during the year, and none was proved. The situation in some of the houses occupied by Pakistanis is somewhat obscure. One notice under Section 85 of the Housing Act 1957 was served during the year.

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected formally or informally for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts. 308

   b) Number of inspections, formal or informal made. 600

   c) Number of houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation, but capable of being rendered fit. 29

2. Total number of dwellings existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation, and not capable, at reasonable expense, of being rendered fit and in respect of which -

   a) Demolition, Clearance and Closing Orders have been made (at any time) 14

   b) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made -

REPAIRS DURING THE YEAR.

a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the year as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts. 37

b) Public Health Act - action after service of formal notice, houses in which defects were remedied,

   (i) By Owners NIL
   (ii) By Local Authority in default of owners NIL

c) Housing Act, 1957 - action after service of formal notice (Sections 9 and 16) houses made fit,

   (i) By Owners NIL
   (ii) By Local Authority in default of owners NIL

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT 1959 - STANDARD GRANTS.

Action during the year	Number of Schemes.	Number of dwellings or other buildings affected.
Submitted to and approved by Local Authority.		
To Full Standard.	39	39
Work Completed	51	51

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The number of Distributors is as follows:-

a) Dairies in the District 3
b) Premises outside the District 7
c) Shops in the District other than Dairies 26

The Lancashire County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority and thus responsible for the issue of Licences.

ICE CREAM SAMPLES.

Four samples of Ice Cream were obtained during the year, submitted to the Public Health Laboratory and proved to be Grade 1.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE FACILITIES.

There are no public or private slaughterhouses in operation within the District.

FOOD PREMISES.

The number of Food Premises in the District at the end of 1968 was as follows:-

Type of Business.	Number.
General Grocers	17
Greengrocers and Fruiterers (Including wet fish)	6
Butchers and Cooked Meats	11
Bakers and Confectioners	8
Fried Fish Shops	5
Sugar Confectionery, Ice Cream, Minerals etc.	14
Licensed Hotels/Clubs	15
Snack Bars etc.	2

Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 or under Local Acts.

Type of Business.	No.Registered.	No.of inspections of registered premises during the year.
Butchers and Meat Products	11	30
Bakers & Confectioners	6	16
Grocers & Mixed	12	33
Sweets & Soft Drinks	13	30

FACTORIES ACT 1961.

Particulars of inspections made under this Act are given on the next page.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Number of factory chimneys in the District	5
Observations taken during the year	14
Smoke nuisances discovered	4

Brierfield No.2 Smoke Control Order came into force in July. Two further Orders were made during the year. In the No.3 Area, there are 281 private dwellings, 16 Council flats, 18 Commercial premises, 18 lock-up shops, 5 Offices, 3 Clubs and 2 other buildings covering some 160 acres, and in No.4 Area there are 40 Council owned flats/houses/bungalows, 199 private dwellings, 9 commercial premises, 4 lock-up shops, 1 school, 2 clubs and 2 other premises.

There were many complaints about smoke from one factory and a considerable amount of work was done in an endeavour to overcome the nuisance.

RODENT CONTROL.

The sewer manholes were treated in March and checked in April. There was little sign of infection.

The following properties were treated:-

Properties treated following notification and found to be infested by:-	a) Rats	24
	b) Mice	44
Routine inspections (Other than above)		142
Properties found infested by mice		1

In addition, the Council's properties (tips and buildings) were regularly inspected and baited.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Part I of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (Including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Secs.1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not incl. in (i) in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A.	25	42	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding outworkers premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	25	42	-	-

2. DEFECTS No defects were found.

3. OUTWORKERS. Sections 110 and 111. No notification was received but one outworker was recorded in December.

C O M M E N T.

GENERAL.

Abandoned vehicles have continued to cause difficulties and notwithstanding the Council's considerable efforts to remove beds, furniture etc., the problem of "dumpers" remains.

Joint meetings continue to be held with neighbouring authorities in an endeavour to overcome tipping problems

In last year's report, reference was made to the many complaints of offensive smoke and odour from a local factory. The work, held up by lack of adequate electrical power, was eventually completed and appears to be satisfactory.

A separate report was issued on the operation of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act and is reproduced on page 12.

GENERAL (Cont.)

Records under the Factories Act continue to need attention although complete inspections were made. One small factory ceased to operate during the year.

Reports of Rats, mice and cockroaches are referred to the Pest Control section of Rentokil Laboratories Ltd. Prompt attention is given to all complaints. This firm also undertakes the sewer treatments, carried out in 1968 during March and April.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT.

Little change occurred in 1968. One Butchers Shop was re-entered, one Ladies Hairdresser removed and one new office premises, an Estate Agent, entered on the register. A dry cleaners receiving shop closed and another opened.

Of the contraventions mentioned in the 1967 report, those affecting three premises, lack of a handrail, lack of thermometer and First Aid Equipment, failure to display extract of the Act, were dealt with.

Another involving a defective floor and floor covering was at premises that closed during the year and the shop from which the staircase handrail had been removed is, at present, undergoing extensive alterations.

One accident was reported. This was the result of a female employee lifting a bag of flour from a hoist, without assistance. The Council decided to take no action.

Copies of the booklet OSR9B continue to be made available.

SMOKE CONTROL.

Brierfield No.1 Order came into force on the 1st August, 1967 and No.2 Area which covered the remainder of West Ward on the 1st July, 1968. No.3 Area was declared in June and No.4 in November and will come into force in 1969.

The number of premises in the four areas is as follows:-

No.1 223, No.2 270, No.3 258, No.4 281.

HOUSING.

Undertakings have been accepted in respect of some of the houses closed after action under the Housing Act, but a few remain, gradually getting worse and causing grave dissatisfaction to the neighbours. By the end of the year, Embassy House, the properties in Vine Street and Shed Street had been demolished.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

A new vehicle was purchased and was operated in the second half of the year. A 35 cubic yard vehicle was ordered but before delivery could be effected it became necessary, due to brake failure on the old vehicle, to borrow one. The only one available was of 50 cubic yard capacity and when this proved to be reasonably manoeuvrable in our narrow back streets, it was decided to acquire it. Collection has been speeded up and there has been a considerabl reduction in the number of complaints of failure to empty bins.

REFUSE COLLECTION (Cont.)

In 1966, there were 375 complaints of failure to empty bins, in 1967, 241: in 1968, 151. Of this figure of 151, 64 were in the second half of the year. Not all of these complaints are justified, some are due to bins being improperly used for heavy builders refuse, some to the use of tubs without handles and to defective dangerous bins. Such receptacles are now reported and action is taken to ensure the provision of a standard bin in good order.

The Council continues, at considerable expense, to remove unwanted articles. This service is not always appreciated and even though for the most part it is free, people continue to dump unwanted furniture and other unwanted material in most difficult places. A similar statement was made on last year's report and it is unfortunate that it must be repeated.

In 1966, there were 537 requests for additional collections, in 1967, 424 and in 1968, 578.

CONCLUSION.

The co-operation given to the Health Department by the Surveyor, other members of the Council's staff, the Engineer to the Water Board, and the staff of the County Council's Brierfield Clinic is here gratefuly acknowledged.

J. S. HAWORTH,

Public Health Inspector.

May, 1969.